

Horseman may miss

Amateur cup clash

WYCOMBE Wanderers' leading goalscorer Tony Horseman may miss tomorrow's (Saturday) first round Amateur Cup tie against Hornchurch at Loakes Park. "Bodger" has been suffering recently with a back injury.

The injury was sustained against Tooting before Christmas and aggravated in the Boxing Day draw at Dulwich. Horseman was rested on Saturday but despite winning 4-0 the Blues undoubtedly missed his presence.

While Horseman was missing though, it paved the way for the re-appearance of Graham Mackenzie who certainly made the most of his chance with a brilliant performance in midfield. And if Bodger is unfit tomorrow, Mackenzie may well stay in the side with Mick Hollifield again playing in the striker's role.

Mackenzie, although unlikely to find tomorrow's opponents as easy as Clapton, is still worth a regular first team place for his distribution in midfield. Along with Terry Readson and skipper Larry Pritchard, these three make up

a really inventive trio. Now Tony Brothers has left for Hitchin, Mackenzie is the first choice replacement for midfield.

Apart from Horseman, there are no other injury worries, although manager Brian Lee will again have to decide who to play in the full back position — Rob Williams or Paul Birdseye.

COMFORTABLE

On paper, the game looks pretty comfortable for Wycombe, fourth in the Rothmans Isthmian League table. But they were in a similar position this time last season when a small Hertfordshire club named Cheshunt visited Loakes Park.

It looked easy until John

Delaney gifted them a goal and then had to be carried off with a leg injury. Despite throwing everything they had at Cheshunt, the visitors managed to hold on to their advantage to run out 1-0 winners.

Overconfidence is the one thing that could disturb Wycombe tomorrow. After their excellent performances against pro opposition in the F.A. Cup, it is now their turn to be the giants in the final Amateur Cup competition.

Hornchurch manager, Arthur Wenbourn, remained in a philosophical mood this week over his trip to Wycombe Wanderers.

It will be a rare experience for Hornchurch to play in front of a gate of 1,500 plus, and in

an unfamiliar setting they travel as distinct underdogs. "Let's be realistic," says manager Wenbourn, "If we had to be drawn away from home, a team like Wycombe Wanderers is better for us. In fact it is better for the club financially to play Wycombe on their ground."

But if it is possible to detect the slightest hint of defeatism in Wenbourn's attitude, the Hornchurch boss is quick to add, "Don't forget we only lost to Sutton United after a hard fought replay in the F.A. Cup and I don't think there would be too many raised eyebrows if Sutton were to beat Wycombe."

Unfortunately Hornchurch have never been renown cup fighters and in previous Amateur Cup rounds, Wenbourn has had difficulty in raising the side to meet the occasion. "But I don't think we shall have any problems against Wycombe", he says.

"The lads seem to have taken exception on this occasion. They are mentally prepared for the game and are looking forward to it, which is a great advantage."

The 'Urchins' away form in the Amateur Cup this season compares favourably with their matches at the Stadium. They scored convincing 3-0 and 4-1 wins at Rainham and Ford United while winning by the only goal of the game against Grays and Vauxhall Motors at home.

Manager Wenbourn's big injury worry is his 20 year old talented midfielder player, Earl Jacocine, who damaged an ankle in last Saturday's league fixture at Herne Bay. Despite regular treatment at the club over the past week, Jacocine has responded slowly and it is on the cards he will miss the tie. His injury comes as a minor catastrophe to Hornchurch, who rely a great deal on Jacocine's midfield flair.



ALAN NOONAN
... top scorer.

Latest tables

ROTHMAN'S ISTHMIAN LEAGUE Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	C	D
B. Strfd	29	16	5	8	57	19	56	20	
Dulwich	30	15	1	4	48	24	56	10	
Hendon	23	16	5	2	41	10	53	10	
Wycombe	22	15	4	3	54	21	49	0	
Linhead	24	13	5	6	52	23	48	7	
Hayes	24	13	5	6	48	25	44	4	
Lev stone	24	12	6	6	38	21	42	10	
Oxford	29	10	12	7	31	34	42	3	
King's t'n	30	11	6	13	40	36	39	0	
Ilford	28	10	8	10	32	34	38	6	
King's t'n	26	8	10	8	33	29	34	2	
Barking	28	9	6	13	31	46	33	0	
Watton	19	9	5	5	32	23	32	4	
Enfield	24	9	5	10	30	28	32	0	
Hitchin	22	9	5	9	40	35	32	0	
Winstow	28	8	8	12	32	43	32	9	
Sutton	25	7	10	8	32	36	31	0	
Woking	17	9	1	2	23	28	28	0	
Bromley	28	6	6	16	29	43	24	4	
Clapton	28	3	2	23	15	98	11	6	
St Albans	28	2	4	22	21	69	10	0	
Casuals	24	2	2	20	17	53	8	20	

ATHENIAN LEAGUE Division 1

(Up to 29-12-73)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borham W	14	9	3	2	21	8	21
Cheshunt	18	7	7	4	28	16	21
Erith	10	7	6	3	22	16	20
Grovdon	19	6	7	6	22	22	19
Ware	15	7	4	4	25	17	18
Grays	19	5	8	6	19	19	18
Ruislip M	11	7	3	3	12	9	17
Lower	12	6	5	1	18	8	17
Edmonton	16	5	7	4	13	10	17
H'church	15	6	5	5	21	18	17
Redhill	17	4	6	7	10	23	14
Wembley	17	5	3	9	22	27	13
Worthing	16	4	6	4	18	15	17
Eastbourne	17	5	2	10	18	34	12
Hounslow	12	4	3	5	13	16	11
Lechworth	14	5	1	8	14	24	10
Marlow	14	4	2	8	9	16	10
Herne Bay	17	1	4	12	5	28	6

NOONAN IS TOP SCORER

TOP goalscorer this season for Hornchurch is Alan Noonan, who joined the club from Ilford this term. Here's a run down on the Hornchurch squad.

GEOFF POWELL: Regular first team goalkeeper, came from local junior soccer and stepped into the first team spot when former 'keeper Tony Wiseman left for Bishop's Stortford.

MICK FRUEN: Slightly built, but effective full back. Joined during manager Arthur Wenbourn's team rebuilding operation and has commanded a regular first team spot ever since.

MICK HALE: Partners Fruen at left back and also joined the club in Autumn '72 from Tooting. A regular first team man.

COLIN EMSDEN: Industrious midfielder man with a flair for attack. Left Leyton in the Athenian League Division Two to join Hornchurch.

KEN DEARMAN: Resolute defender. Strong in the tackle and an effective marker. Joined with Emsden from Leyton.

KEN DOUGHTY: Completes the back four. Plays at centre back and is the mainstay of the Hornchurch defence in the air. Turned down a possible move to Isthmian neighbours Ilford two months ago but is now back in regular first team action. From East Ham.

PETER TAYLOR: Midfield man with deceptive qualities. Quit the game a year ago but on Wenbourn's arrival at the club, was persuaded to rejoin and is now a key member of the team.

JOHN SCRIVENER: Tall, accurate striker. Signed from Ford United with manager Wenbourn as their top scorer and became Hornchurch's top marksman last term.

ALF HALE: Provides valuable support upfront. Came from Ilford at the start of the season.

EDDIE WARREN: Relentless midfield ball winner but has failed to find his top form this term after signing